



Stephens City Newsletter

VOLUME 28, ISSUE 6

NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2009

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Stephens City Newsletter is published by the Town Government of Stephens City for its citizens, to inform, to apprise, and to clarify the issues and undertakings before the Town Government. Citizen feedback is encouraged. Contact the Town Office at 1033 Locust Street weekdays between the hours of 8:30a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or by mail: P.O. Box 250, Stephens City, VA 22655

Phone: 869-3087 **Fax:** 869-6166 **Police:** 868-1012 **Website:** www.stephenscity.vi.virginia.gov

2nd Annual

Christmas on the Commons

(Sponsored by the Stephens City Business Association)

Saturday, December 5, 2009

3:30pm to 6:30pm

At the Newtown Commons

Main Street

Stephens City, VA

(For directions visit

www.stephenscity.vi.virginia.gov)



This will be a social celebration for family and friends.

There will be ornament decorating for the Town Tree and Critter Christmas Tree. Ornaments to be made by children 5th grade and below. Cookies and seasonal drinks (Hot Chocolate and Hot Apple Cider) will be served. Concerts by Sherando Band members and the Aylor Middle School Band. Come for caroling, warm by a crackling fire and join in our a tree lighting ceremony, plus, you just never know what special guest might show up.

Schedule:

3:30pm -

Kids on the Commons (This will be a time to participate in ornament decorating for the Town Christmas Tree) Family and friends are encouraged to participate.

3:45pm -

Sherando Band Quintet

4:30pm -

Deck the Halls (Children, Parents, Grandparents, and friends will decorate the Town Tree.)

Cookies and Cider on the Commons

4:45pm -

Aylor Middle School Band Performs

5:30pm -

Caroling on the Commons

6:00pm -

Tree Lighting (or upon darkness)



North Main Street Sidewalk Extension and Enhancement Project

UPDATE:

Currently we are in the process of finalizing the selection of the Design and Engineering Firm. This process can sometimes take a while as this project is being made possible through Federal Funding and VDOT is required to validate the selection process.

The goal is to finalize the selection of a consultant and begin the process of conceptual drawings and engineering before the end of the year and have the complete engineering by late Spring of 2010. At that point, the project would transition into a construction phase.

To stay updated, keep visiting the Town's website or stop by the office.

*Questions?
Please Contact Town
Planner, Brian Henshaw*



November and December are filled with such wonderful times to spend with your family and friends.

From all of the Council and Town Staff, we wish you all the most joyous Holiday Season.

From the Town Manager's Desk...

Watch what you flush!

Recently, one or more persons in Stephens City are causing serious problems to the Town's and Frederick County's sewer systems.

Non-biodegradable paper towels or rags are being flushed down the drain. The towels will not break down or shred into smaller pieces, thus causing damage to the waste water pumps at the lift stations. The pumps lock up and will not operate causing a back up, additional maintenance problems and eventually higher wastewater bills to all costumers.

The paper items that are causing the problems are commercial grade cleaning towels that are white or blue in color, have ridge lines and cannot be torn apart by hand. Other paper cleaning products, such as "Swiffer" type mop products are also a problem.

Regular paper towels and toilet tissue are not the problem. However, it should be noted that the sewer system **is not a garbage disposal system!** In fact, very few items are designed or intended to be flushed! Please use trash cans for these objects.

The intent of this notice is to make residents aware of the consequences of improper disposal of items into the sewer system. It is "illegal" to dispose of items that cause damage and are harmful to the sewer collection or treatment system.

The Town will continue to investigate this problem and will find the source of the "paper rags" if the problem continues. Fines will be imposed should the "illegal" dumping or flushing of harmful products continue. Please remember to think before you flush!

Mike Kehoe
Town Manager

CENSUS 2010 "Be Counted in 2010"

The Census: A Snapshot

- **What:** The census is a count of everyone residing in the United States.
- **Who:** All U.S. residents must be counted—people of all races and ethnic groups, both citizens and non-citizens.
- **When:** Census Day is April 1, 2010. Questionnaire responses should represent the household as it exists on this day. More detailed socioeconomic information will be collected annually from a small percentage of population through the **American Community Survey**.
- **Why:** The U.S. Constitution requires a national census every 10 years. The census will show state population counts and determine representation in the U.S. House of Representatives.
- **How:** Census questionnaires will be delivered or mailed to households via U.S. Mail in March 2010; many households will receive a replacement questionnaires in early April. Census workers also will visit households that do not return questionnaires.

A Complete Count: The Importance of Census Data:

- Every year, the federal government can allocate more than \$300 billion to states and communities based, in part, on census data.
- Census data guide local decision-makers on where to build new roads, hospitals, child-care and senior citizen centers, schools and more.
- Businesses use census data to locate supermarkets, new housing and other facilities.
- Census data determine how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives.

2010 Census Questionnaire: Quick, Easy, and Confidential:

- With only 10 questions, the 2010 Census questionnaire is one of the shortest questionnaires in history and takes just 10 minutes to complete.
- By law, the Census Bureau cannot share an individual's census questionnaire responses with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities.

Water and Sewer Billing

Water and sewer bills for the bi-monthly billing period end Tuesday, **October 20, 2009** and are due upon receipt.

After **December 1, 2009** a **10% penalty** will be added. On **Tuesday, December 8, 2009** service will be discontinued for delinquency. A reconnect fee of

\$25 plus the full amount of the bill must be paid before service can be restored.

Just a reminder that for your convenience a night drop is available at the Town Office for dropping off check or money order payments and payments can be made online at the Town's website. Water/Sewer bills

can be paid using a Visa or MasterCard at the Town Office or online! If you pay a bill online after the due date, you will still be responsible for the 10% penalty and if the bill is paid after the shut off date, the \$25 reconnect fee will need to be paid as well, prior to reconnection at the Town Office.

Do not put cash in the drop box!

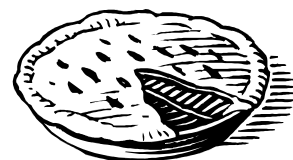
Real Estate and Personal Property Tax Bills

This is a reminder that the second half of the real estate and personal property tax bills will be sent to you by the second week in November. If you do not receive a bill, please call the Town Office (540-869-3087) and we will make sure you get your copy.

Kim S. Uttenweiler,
TOWN TREASURER

Newtown Heritage Festival

The Newtown Heritage Festival committee is busy making plans for the 18th celebration in 2010. One of our new events is the **first home-made pie baking contest** for anyone 16 years and older who is interested. You may enter a fruit and a cream pie. Pie baking in Stephens City has been mentioned in several historical references.



We are still adding to the list of prizes which you may win. We have had no problem finding judges to taste all the entries. You may be asked to make a second pie to auctioned off with the proceeds going towards the costs of the festival. Get out your favorite recipe and start practicing. Contact Jeanette Ewing at 869-5058 to register for this fun event. More details will appear in a later newsletter.

The Committee is always looking for enthusiastic volunteers. Join us any 3rd Thursday at 7:30 at Town Hall.

For Your Information: Smoke Testing

Starting in November the Town will begin smoke testing sewer lines for leaks. The residents in the areas to be tested will be notified at least 3 days in advance. If a residence or place of business does not have proper vent pipes installed in the plumbing system, some smoke may enter the structure. The smoke is harmless. Details about the smoke testing will be distributed with instructions

such as making sure "P-traps" and floor drains have water in them. Property owners who have exterior problems with leaks, open clean outs, or other defects identified by smoke tests will be required to make repairs as necessary.

Mike Kehoe
Town Manager



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2009

Town Calendar of Events


NOVEMBER

Nov. 3	TOWN COUNCIL at 7:30p.m.
Nov. 5	Dr. Peter B. Stickley Meeting at 7:30p.m.
Nov. 9	Personnel Committee meeting at 5:00pm
Nov. 17	Historic Preservation Committee at 5:00pm
Nov. 19	Water/ Sewer meeting at 9:00 am
	Public Works meeting at 9:30 am
	Newtown Heritage Fest. Comm. at 7:00pm
Nov. 23	Parks & Recreation Commission at 7:30pm
Nov. 24	Planning Commission at 7:30pm
Nov. 25	Finance Committee at 5:00pm
Nov. 26	Thanksgiving Day– Office Closed
Nov. 27	Town Office Closed

** All meetings subject to change without notice w/ the exception of the Town Council meeting.*

We're on the web!
www.stephenscity.vi.virginia.gov

DECEMBER

Dec. 1	Town Council Meeting at 7:30pm
	Water/ Sewer Bills Due without penalty
Dec. 2	Penalties added to Water/Sewer Bills
Dec. 3	Dr. Peter B. Stickley Meeting at 7:30p.m.
Dec. 8	Water/ Sewer Shut off Date
Dec. 14	Personnel Meeting at 7:30 pm
Dec. 15	Historic Preservation Committee at 5:00pm
Dec. 17	Public Works Meeting at 9:00am
	Water/ Sewer Meeting at 9:30am
	NHF Meeting at 7:30pm
Dec. 23	Finance Committee at 5:00pm
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve– Town Office Closed
Dec. 25	Christmas Day– Town Office Closed
	
Dec. 28	Parks & Recreation Commission at 7:30pm
Dec.. 29	Planning Commission at 7:30pm
Dec. 31	New Year's Eve

Did you hear about the Town providing leaf collection throughout November?

Throughout the month of November, the Town will provide leaf collection.

Please place leaves in either garbage or paper bags at the curb where you leave trash on Monday mornings by 8:30am.

Your leaves must be bagged! Piles will not be picked up.

The Town will be by to pick up the leaves sometime Monday or Tuesday at the latest (dependent upon schedule and weather).

Have Community Announcements?

Should you ever have an announcement with regard to a Community wide event, please submit your announcement to the Town office.

We will try to get your announcement in the upcoming bi-monthly Town newsletter as well as posted in the news and information section on the Town website.

All material is subject to review and approval by Town staff.

Have questions? Call the Town office at 540-869-3087